



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

April 2006

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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2006

Date: May 6 – 7, 2006
Place: Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza
 300 J Street, Sacramento

Established and emerging League leaders alike will benefit from **Effective Leaders—Effective Leagues**, a two-day conference that offers leadership development lessons, advocacy and voters service training, and even League basics. While the official business of **Effective Leaguers-Effective Leagues** is to adopt the LWVC budget for the coming fiscal year, dynamic workshops and a compelling speaker lineup featuring LWVUS President Kay Maxwell are the real highlights of the exciting conference. Learning, listening and leadership development at Leadership Council 2006 will be interspersed with opportunities to laugh and lighten up with League leaders from throughout the state.

If you are interested in attending, contact Susan Hough, shough@mennen.org 408-737-8192.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Marilyn Howard Jenny Lopresto LaVerne Prentice Jason Spiller

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE

In her January letter to local League presidents, Jackie Jacobberger, LWVC president reminded us of the League's policy of "Speaking With One Voice."

"There are bills in the Legislature and ballot measures to be evaluated, and decisions will be made based on our League positions. Again this year, we anticipate that some of those decisions will be difficult because of conflicting League positions. The League has its own 'special interest groups' who 'lobby' the League board to take a stand on one side or the other of an issue. You can be sure that the board will carefully weigh all sides of the issue before reaching a position. Meanwhile, please remember that you must be patient and wait for the League's position on state legislation and ballot measures before making any statements. And, once the League's position is announced, local Leagues may not take a stand in opposition to the announced position. This is part of the 'Speaking With One Voice' policy which is a tradition for the League.

When you do speak for the League on any issue, be sure that there is an applicable League position. Because the League's opinion is so respected in our communities, we often are asked to comment on a problem of concern in our community. However, if the League does not have a position, you cannot make a statement in the name of the League.

Of course, League members can speak as individuals on any issue. However, in doing so, they must not use the League's name or imply that they are speaking for the League."

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here, the gardens are full of life and weeds, and the League is stretching to wake up from its post-election rest. Some of us, of course, never slow down (Roberta comes to mind), but others (and I'm one of them) need a break once in a while. We spend more time with family, we recharge and then we come back to throw ourselves into education and advocacy with fresh energy. Are you one of those? Have you taken a break from being engaged with your community because for a while your family or your work needed a larger share of your time and attention? It happens! But it's a new season, and a chance to evaluate not only your time, because there is never enough time to do all the good you want to do, but your priorities. Is this the season in which you will make time to learn what your city council does in their meetings? Is this the season in which you'll check out a League board meeting to see if they're really as useful and entertaining as I claim? Is this the season in which a local school will have safer students because you've decided to put some time into directing cars through the horrid morning traffic jam? Is this the season in which you'll find out why the LWVCS sometimes takes a position for or against certain possible futures for our cities, and join us in making those decisions?

Is this a growing season for you? Come on, throw out a bud or two and see what it blooms into!

Susan

COMMUNITY APPEAL

Every year the League looks to its members and the community to help fund projects that help us accomplish our goals of continuing our citizen education and involvement in the community. We hope you will respond when this year's community appeal arrives in your mailbox.

Thanks to Linda Davis, Fran Grabau, Roberta Hollimon, Susan Hough, Jenny Lopresto, LaVerne Prentice, and Rose Marie Twu for their help in preparing the Community Appeal.

NOMINATING & BUDGET COMMITTEES

The Nominating and Budget Committees will be beginning their work in April and the chairs of these committees would welcome help from our members. If you would like to help identify potential leaders for next year's board, contact Susan Hough, shough@mennenon.org, 408-737-8192. If you have a flair for figures and can assist in creating a budget for the next fiscal year, contact the Chair of the Budget Committee, Sharon Jenks, at 408-720-1003 rsjenks@prodigynet.

Board Briefs

This VOTER went to press prior to the Board meeting. The action of the March meeting will be reported in the next VOTER.

Notes of Appreciation

In preparing the "Looking Back" feature in each VOTER, I read through old VOTERs to see what we were doing all those years ago. This month I came across an article in the April 1991 VOTER that is worth repeating.

"Most organizations have a few dedicated individuals who are central to its existence. Evelyn Lundstrom is such a person for LWVCS. Evelyn has been responsible for membership renewals during many of this local League's 18 years. She establishes and maintains contact with members, sends out and follows up on renewal notices, handles communications regarding members with other levels of League, and keeps our member records in good order. Largely because of Evelyn's attention to detail and caring for people, LWVCS has a very high member retention rate."

Evelyn continues to perform these tasks 15 years later. Thanks Evelyn, for 33 years of dedicated service. What a remarkable record.

Editor

Looking Back

will return next month

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: John Hasling, Jo and Ted Loer, Anthony Spitaleri, and Katherine Turner.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Jo Lucey, Joan Schultz, and Jane Taylor

LEAGUE NEWS

National – LWV Education Fund announced the launch of “Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Defending the U.S. Constitution,” a three year program. This will be a large-scale public education effort to increase citizen understanding of the importance of our nation’s system of separation of powers and checks and balances provided for by the U.S. Constitution.

State –The state League continues to be an active participant in the coalition that is working on a Redistricting measure. Our Legislative Advocate has been working overtime talking with members in both houses and both sides of the aisle.

Bay Area – Concern about the disconnect at connection points between transit services, the Bay Area League testified in support of their vision for a multi-modal, efficient and convenient regional transportation system by endorsing the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) “Transit Connectivity Plan.” The goal is to make the transfer between service providers seamless.

County The presidents of the five Leagues in Santa Clara County learned of an initiative to amend the Santa Clara County General Plan to protect hillsides, agricultural lands, watersheds and other valuable open lands from unnecessary and irreparably harmful development, and to maintain the high quality of the environment and life in the county.

CUPERTINO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE “C” BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Measure “C” Bond oversight Committee gave its annual report to the Cupertino School Board on February 28, 2006. The Committee was appointed by the board to ensure voter confidence with regards to the proper expenditures of bond proceeds. Its charge is to ensure fulfillment of campaign commitments, inform the public concerning the expenditures of bond funds and ensure accountability over fund expenditures. Roberta Hollimon is the League’s representative on the committee. Committee members have the responsibility of reporting their findings to their own constituents.

The \$80 million bond funds approved by voters have been used to repair aging facilities, renovate schools and build new facilities to accommodate growing enrollment.

To date, the program has remained substantially ahead of schedule and within the overall projected budget. In general, the Committee has been impressed with all aspects of the Bond Projects, including the on-going execution of the comprehensive Facility Master Plan that included detailed schedules, cost estimates and budget to actual variance detail for all project expenditures. We have been impressed with the overall quality of the project management team, materials used and the exterior and interior functionality of the sites that we have toured. Any questions or concerns raised by the committee have been responded to in a timely and satisfactory manner. It is our opinion that the program (which is substantially complete) has been for the most part delivered for use on schedule and will end well within the established budgets with expenditures appropriately applied, thus meeting the commitments as intended by the voters in the Cupertino Union School District. These new and improved facilities will further enhance and support the district’s goals delivering excellent student achievement utilizing state-of-the-art facilities.

Help Make Government Work Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

___ \$50 Individual member

Name: _____

___ \$75 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ Contribution \$ _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.